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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,004	01/02/2002	Daniel R. Baum	Shutterfly 04C001	8059

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EXAMINER

GARG, YOGESH C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/038,004

Applicant(s)

BAUM, DANIEL R.

Examiner

Yogesh C Garg

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

- (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
- (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Shiota et al. (US Patent 6,324,521)

With regards to claim 1, Shiota teaches a computer implemented method of distributing cards to a plurality of recipients, the method comprising:

Receiving a card order specifying a plurality of recipients and, for each specified recipient, a set of one or more uploaded images associated with that recipient (col.10, line 33-col.11, line 21. Note, Here, Shiota teaches that the center server receives an order from the customer (personal computer 6) which includes uploaded image data for the prints ordered for recipients. The orders include postcards (col.3, lines 31-35) and picture postcards (col.4, lines 28-32) which correspond to a card order in the

Art Unit: 3625

application. Col.11, line 38-col.12, line 24 discloses that there are plurality of recipients (customer and his/her friend). Also see Fig.1 (6-PC correspond to plurality of recipients)

For each of the plurality of recipients specified in the received card order, printing at least one card having at least one uploaded image from the recipient's image set and distributing the printed cards having the recipients' uploaded images to their respective associated recipients (col.11, lines 38-col.12, line 24. Customer and his friend are the plurality of recipients and prints (which could be photograph/postcards/picture postcards as disclosed in col.3, lines 31-35 and col.4, lines 28-32) with uploaded images are distributed to customer and to the customer's friend).

With regards to claims 3 and 10, Shiota discloses that image set differ from one recipient to second recipient and also diving the received card order into a plurality of sub-card orders, each sub-card order corresponding to a different recipient (col.11, lines 38-col.12, line 24. Note: picture a for the customer and picture b for the friend. Pictures a and b could be different and can be ordered by customer and friend separately via Internet).

With regards to claims 5-8, Shiota teaches that the images are uploaded by a user from a digital camera (col. 2, lines 34-42, "...a picture image obtained from a memory or the like of a digital camera ") to a printing service (at least see, Fig.6. Center Server is the printing service. Also see col.10, line 30-col.11, line 21 and col.1, line 56-col.2, line 10), receiving, printing and distributing is dispersed among two or different entities (at least see, Fig.6. Center Server is the printing service. Also see col.10, line 30-col.11, line 21 and col.1, line 56-col.2, line 10. Note: laboratory server and center

Art Unit: 3625

server are tow or different entities) or can be performed by a single entity (col.1, lines 29-38, "...However, it is preferable to have only one wholesale labdata management").

With regards to claim 9, Shiota teaches receiving orders for picture postcard by an enterprise providing a web front-end (See. Figs.1 and 6. Also see col.10, lines 30-41).

With regards to claims 11-12, Shiota teaches that card order comprises a single transaction and is terminated by a click of a "card order" button (col.8, lines 17-30, "...can request a printing service without going to the minilab 3 by carrying out a predetermined input on an order screen through confirmation of the thumbnail image.....". Note: thumbnail image corresponds to "card-order" button and confirmation of thumbnail image corresponds to a single sequence transaction)

With regards to system claims 14, and16, all of their limitations are similar to the limitations of method claims 1, 7, and 11-12 analyzed above and are rejected similarly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al. , and further in view of Tackbary et al. (US Patent 6,092,054).

With regards to claims 2, 4 and 15, Shiota teaches a computer-implemented method and system of distributing cards to a plurality of recipients, as disclosed in claims 1 and 14 above. Shiota further teaches printing of postcards and picture and postcards (col.3, lines 31-35, and col.4, lines 27-31) and cards could differ in size, copies, finish (col.3, lines 31-45, "...postcard generation.....size of the print, and the number of the print..."). Shiota does not disclose printing a greeting card and a playing card with textual message. However, Tackbary teaches printing a greeting card and a playing card with textual message which are grouped under "social expression cards " (at least see, col.1, line 19-col.2, line 46, "...The invention relates... ordering, and delivering social expression cards.....upon receiving an order, to select designated cards....print the buyer's messages on the cards, and send the cards to the buyer or the recipients"). In view of Tackbary, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shiota to include the feature of printing and distributing greeting card, playing card or other social expression cards along with picture postcard with textual message. Doing so would allow the customer in Shiota to modify the picture postcards to social expression cards, like greeting cards or playing cards, with textual messages and send them on occasions like birthdays/anniversary, etc. and thereby eliminating the need to spend time and effort in buying them from another source.

Art Unit: 3625

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al. ,

With regards to claim 13, Shiota teaches a computer implemented method of distributing cards to a plurality of recipients, as disclosed in claim 1 above. Shiota further teaches payment method (Fig.2). Shiota does not disclose charging to one or more of a credit card, a debit card, electronic funds transfer, a gift certificate, or a coupon. However, it is a generally known information that while shopping/placing orders via Internet/WWW payment is made via one of the many notoriously known means of a credit card, a debit card, electronic funds transfer, a gift certificate, or a coupon. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to charge, in Shiota, via one of the many notoriously known means of a credit card, a debit card, electronic funds transfer, a gift certificate, or a coupon.

6. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiota et al., and further in view of Tackbary et al. (US Patent 6,092,054).

With regards to claims 17, Shiota (col.1, line 56-col.12, line 24) teaches all the limitations of the claims. Shiota does not teach obtaining message data from the user specifying message content to be included in the print communications and including this message data in the print communications. However, Tackbary obtaining message data from the user specifying message content to be included in the print communications and including this message data in the print communications (at least see, col.1, line 19-col.2, line 46, "...The invention relates... ordering, and delivering

Art Unit: 3625

social expression cards.....upon receiving an order, to select designated cards....print the buyer's messages on the cards, and send the cards to the buyer or the recipients").

In view of Tackbary, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Shiota to include the feature of obtaining message data from the user specifying message content to be included in the print communications and including this message data in the print communications. Doing so would allow the customer in Shiota to modify the picture postcards to include the message content in the print communications to use them as social expression cards, like greeting cards/anniversary cards, etc. thereby eliminating the need to spend time and effort in buying social expression cards, like greeting cards, from another source.

With regards to claims 18-20, Shiota/Tackbary teaches uploading images from a digital camera or a data storage (col. 2, lines 34-42, "...a picture image obtained from a memory or the like of a digital camera". Note: memory corresponds to a data storage device) and uploading to a printing device (at least see, Fig.6. Center Server is the printing service. Also see col.10, line 30-col.11, line 21 and col.1, line 56-col.2, line 10).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) US Patent 5,748,484 to Cannon et al. discloses a system for, printing and distributing social expression cards in response to electronically transmitted orders.

(ii) US Patent 5,799,219 to Moghadam et al. discloses a system and method for remote image communication and processing using data recorded on photographic film.

(iii) US Patent 5,974,401 to Enomoto et al. discloses a digital print order and delivery method and system.

(iv) US Patent 6,133,985 to Garfinkle et al. discloses a method of processing digital images and distributing visual prints produced from the digital images.

(v) US Patent 6,198,526 to Ohtsuka discloses a method and apparatus for recording order information.

(vi) US Patent 5,960,411 to Hartman et al. discloses a method and system for placing a purchase order via a communications network with single click order system.

(vii) These four articles, (a) Press release " @Home Network Teams With Corbis to Expand ' Making Pictures", PR Newswire; New York; Feb 11, 1999, (b) Press release, " MGI Software Advances Consumer-Friendly PC Photography Software With the Launch of MGI PhotoSuite III-Platinum Edition", Business Wire; New York; Aug 19, 1999 (c) Press release, "Kodak and Live On Line Bring Peace, Love and Pictures to Woodstock 99 Fans; Online photo gallery captures the musical energy of the concert event of the summer", Business wire; New York: July 19, 1999; Business Editors and (d) Press release, " IXLA EXPLORER VERSION 3.0 IS NOW AVAILABLE; Image Organizer Offers New Ways to Collect, Manage and Share Digital Pictures", Business wire; New York: Mar 18, 1999; Business / Technology Editors, all extracted from Internet, <http://proquest.umi.com> on 09/06/2002 disclose a computer implemented

Art Unit: 3625

method, system and apparatus to print and distribute postcards and greeting cards to plurality of recipients in response to receiving orders via Internet.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C Garg whose telephone number is 703-306-0252. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn W Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Yogesh C Garg
Examiner
Art Unit 3625

YCG
September 7, 2002


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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